

XXVI.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. IV.—VI.

No. IV. (Dec. 31st, 1892.)

THE third meeting of the Club was held at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, December 21st, 1892.

Chairman : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. BIDWELL, R. STEPHENSON CLARKE, PHILIP CROWLEY, H. E. DRESSER, H. O. FORBES, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, Lt.-Col. H. L. IRBY, ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treas.*), W. L. SCLATER, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE, Rev. H. H. SLATER, Capt. HORACE TERRY, J. F. TRISTRAM-VALENTINE.

Guests : A. TREVOR-BATTYE, E. HARTERT, E. J. HART.

The TREASURER announced that the number of Members amounted to 78.

Mr. H. E. DRESSER exhibited a specimen of a new species of *Acredula* from Macedonia, which he had received from Dr. Krüper. He proposed to call it

ACREDULA MACEDONICA, sp. n.

A. similis A. roseæ, sed nigredine pilei lateralis latiore et usque ad nares productâ, itaque loris nigris et plagâ gutturali sic ut in *A. tephronota*, distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·3, alæ 2·4, caudæ 3·5, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. In monte Olympe.

Mr. PHILIP CROWLEY exhibited a nest and egg of *Paradisea raggiana* and the egg of *Chlamydodera cerviniventris* from South-eastern New Guinea; also an egg of *Chlamydodera maculata* from Clarence River, N. S. Wales. That of *C. cerviniventris* had been procured by Mr. Goldie at Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea. The *Paradisea* was stated to build in shrubs from about 15 to 20 feet in height, and the egg

resembled that of *Paradisea apoda* figured by Dr. Meyer from the Aru Islands (Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. Taf. xvii. fig. 2).

Mr. A. TREVOR-BATTYE exhibited some skins of *Parus borealis* and *P. palustris* from Sweden, and made some remarks on the different habits and notes of the two species as observed by him in that country. Remarks on this subject were made by Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS, Rev. H. H. SLATER, Mr. ERNST HARTERT, and Mr. H. J. PEARSON.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition the type of the remarkable new genus, *Palmeria mirabilis*, from Maui, Sandwich Islands, as well as the types of *Loxops ochracea* and *Hemignathus affinis*, the descriptions of which would appear in 'The Ibis' for January 1893.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited an example of a new *Conurus* obtained by him on the island of Aruba, which he proposed to call

—*CONURUS ARUBENSIS*, sp. n.

Conurus C. æruginoso similimus, sed fronte pallidiore, loris, capitis lateribus et gula lætioribus et conspicue luteo vel aureo tinctis distinguendus. Al. 5·4 poll., caud. 5.

This new form might be called intermediate between *C. pertinax* and *C. æruginosus*. Mr. Hartert had obtained four skins, which he had compared with a good many skins of both *C. æruginosus* and *C. pertinax* in Mus. H. v. Berlepsch, the British Museum, and the Rothschild Museum.

Hab. Aruba, West Indies.

Dr. P. L. SCLATER exhibited a specimen of an extraordinary bird from South-eastern New Guinea, *Paramythia montium*, De Vis (Ann. Queensl. Mus. No. 2, p. 6). This species had been discovered by Sir William Macgregor on Mount Suckling, and placed by Mr. de Vis in the family *Sturnidae*; but it was doubtful whether its affinities lay with the Starlings.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition a typical specimen of a new Duck, which he proposed to call

ANAS LAYSANENSIS, sp. n.

Bill blackish ; top of the head and hind neck deep blackish brown ; sides of the head more mottled with brown ; round the eye a white ring ; interscapular region, scapulars, and wing-coverts light rusty brown, boldly variegated with blackish ; feathers of the back and rump blackish, edged with rufous brown and with more or less conspicuous pale shaft-lines ; upper tail-coverts and rectrices light brown, barred with blackish ; primaries pale brown, with very light edges ; chin whitish ; feathers of the rest of the lower parts light rusty brown, irregularly barred and spotted with darker brown ; feet yellow. In the male there is a conspicuous deep green and black speculum, bordered with white below ; in the female the speculum is only indicated, the primary-coverts being edged with white. Total length 15 to 17 inches, wing 7·5 to 7·7, tail 3·5, culmen 1·6, tarsus 1·9.

Hab. Island of Laysan, North Pacific.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited two examples (♂ and ♀) of a *Crossoptilon* which he regarded as representing an undescribed species. He proposed to call it

CROSSOPTILON LEUCURUM.

C. similis C. tibetano, sed rectricibus albis nigro terminatis (♂) aut marginatis (♀) distinguendum.

These examples had been obtained by Captain Bower and Dr. Thorold in Eastern Tibet between the Sok Pass and Chiamdo. Similar specimens had been obtained by Prince Henry of Orleans and Monsieur Bonvalot on the plateau between the Sok Pass and Lhassa. Still further to the south, 150 miles east of Lhassa, was found *C. harmani*, of which a drawing was exhibited. East of Chiamdo and Batang, examples of *C. tibetanicum* had been found by the Abbé David in Moupin, and by Mr. Pratt at Ta-chien-loo, and examples from both localities were exhibited. The range of this species seemed to overlap that of *C. leucurum* in East Tibet, but the latter was not known to extend into Western China. Examples of *C. auritum* collected by General Prjevalski on the plateau east of Koko-Nor, and the type of

C. manchuricum obtained by the Abbé David on the plateau west of Peking, were laid on the table for comparison.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a specimen of an apparently new species of *Rhipidura* from the island of Dammar, in the Banda Sea, where it had been procured by Dr. Bassett Smith during the recent voyage of H.M.S. 'Penguin':—

RHIPIDURA BUETTIKOFERI, sp. n.

R. similis R. setosa, sed ubique saturatior, nigricanti-brunnea, nec grisea, et rectricibus duabus exterioribus longiùs albo terminatis. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·4, caudæ 3·4, tarsi 0·65.

According to the describer's arrangement in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' the species would fall in the "Key" to the species of *Rhipidura* (vol. iv. pp. 303–308) close to *R. setosa* (*t. c.* p. 329); but it differed from the latter in being blackish brown instead of ashy grey, and the white on the tail was much more extended. Under Count Salvadori's arrangement (*Orn. Papuasias*, ii. p. 53) of the genus *Rhipidura*, the Dammar species would also be closely allied to *R. setosa*. According, however, to the most recent disposition of the genus by Mr. Büttikofer (*Notes Leyden Mus.* xv. pp. 65–98), the new species would come into a different section from *R. setosa*, because the upper surface could never be considered to be "pure ashy grey;" on the contrary, the colour of the upper parts was dark chocolate-brown, almost blackish. Thus, to follow Mr. Büttikofer, the species would come next to *R. isura*; but here again, as in the case of *R. setosa*, the dark brown colour—instead of grey—would at once separate it. Dr. Sharpe added that Count Salvadori agreed with him that the species was new to science, and he wished to apologize to Mr. Büttikofer for not having shown him the specimen during his recent visit to London, as, though it had been specially put aside for his examination, it had been mislaid.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE also exhibited the types of the species of Hainan birds described by Mr. Styan at the first Meeting of the Club on October 19th, 1892, which had been

forwarded by him for examination. Mr. Styan had already discovered that his *Cryptolopha bicolor* was not a *Cryptolopha*, but was *Herpornis tyrannulus* of Swinhoe. Of the other species Dr. Sharpe found that *Pinarocichla schmackeri*, Styan, was *Criniger pallidus* of Swinhoe ('Ibis,' 1870, p. 252; cf. Sharpe, Cat. B. vi. p. 81). The *Crypsirhina nigra* was a *Temnurus*, a form which had remained unique in the Paris Museum since 1825. The original species, *Temnurus truncatus*, was said to have come from Cochin China, but had never been met with since. It was, however, extremely probable that the genus *Temnurus* would be found both in Cochin China and Hainan, for Mr. Schmacker's collection conclusively proved (if, indeed, any further proof were necessary after Swinhoe's researches) that Hainan formed an integral part of the Indo-Chinese Region; such species as *Harpactes erythrocephalus*, *Ianthænas puniceus*, and *Siphia pallidipes*, which were true Himalayan forms, proclaiming Hainan to be connected with the Himalayan subregion. Whether *Temnurus niger* would prove to be conspecific with *Temnurus truncatus* could only be determined by a comparison of it with the types in Paris.

Dr. SHARPE next made some remarks on a remarkable paper recently published by Dr. Hartlaub, entitled "Vier seltene Rallen" (Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, xii. Heft 3, pp. 389-402). In this paper Dr. Hartlaub had discussed *Rallus monasa* of Kittlitz from Kusehai, and proposed the generic name of *Kittlitzia* for the bird. Dr. Sharpe pointed out that this generic name had already been employed by Mr. Hartert for the Starling of Kusehai, which Kittlitz called *Calornis corvina* (cf. Hartert, 'Kat. Vogelsamml. Senckenb. Mus.' p. 75). He proposed, therefore, to change the name of *Kittlitzia*, Hartlaub (nec Hartert), to *Aphanolimnas*, the characters being the same as those so fully set forth by Dr. Hartlaub in his paper.

Of the second species mentioned by Dr. Hartlaub, *Pennula ecaudata* (King), a specimen was placed upon the table from the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, who had kindly

lent it for the occasion. In his paper Dr. Hartlaub had mentioned that there were five specimens extant of this rare and probably extinct species, four of which were in Honolulu, and one in the Cambridge Museum. Mr. Rothschild had stated, in a memorandum, that, so far as he was aware, only one specimen remained in Honolulu, and that of the other four, one was in Cambridge, one in Mexico, and the remaining two in his own Museum at Tring. Dr. Sharpe suggested that Dr. Hartlaub's third species of Rail, *Rallus sandwichensis*, Gm.,—which was evidently a *Pennula*, and should be called *Pennula sandwichensis* (Gm.)—was really the same as *Pennula ecaudata* (King). The fourth species—which Dr. Hartlaub had also included in the genus *Pennula*—was the *Porzanula palmeri* of Frohawk, a specimen of which had been also lent for exhibition by Mr. Rothschild. Dr. Sharpe differed from Dr. Hartlaub as to the location of this species in the genus *Pennula*, and contended that it must be retained in the genus *Porzanula*, as it was much nearer to true *Porzana* than to any of the other Ralline genera, but possessed characters of sufficient generic value to warrant its separation.

Mr. H. O. FORBES stated that he had recently received from his correspondent Mr. Hawkins a specimen of *Cabalus modestus* of Hutton, from the island of Mangare in the Chatham group. The specimen was evidently that of a young bird, and Mr. Forbes had no doubt that *Cabalus modestus* was only the young of *Cabalus dieffenbachii*.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE announced that he had intended to speak about the classification and distribution of the Rails, but, owing to the lateness of the hour, this communication was postponed till the meeting in January.

Mr. H. O. FORBES exhibited the osteological remains of several of the species of birds he had discovered in the Chatham Islands, lying 500 miles to the east of Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. He pointed out that the species he had ('Nature,' xlv, p. 252) assigned to the genus *Aphanapteryx*,

and named *A. hawkinsi* (after his correspondent who had brought him the first fragments of its cranium), he was now inclined to place in a new genus, which he proposed (at the suggestion of Prof. A. Newton, F.R.S.) to call *Diaphorapteryx* (διάφορος = different). *Diaphorapteryx hawkinsi* belonged to the Ocydromine group of the Rallidæ, and was nearly related not only to *Ocydromus* itself, but even more closely to *Aphanapteryx* of Mauritius. It appeared, indeed, to be nearer to *Aphanapteryx* than the latter genus was to *Erythromachus* of Rodriguez.

Erythromachus differed from *Diaphorapteryx* and *Aphanapteryx* in the greater length of its nasal aperture, which was less than one third of the length of the beak in *Diaphorapteryx*. The latter also differed from both these genera and from *Ocydromus* in the large protuberances on the basi-temporal region of the skull; and from *Ocydromus* in its widely separated palatine bones, which, as they did not meet posteriorly in the middle line, disclosed the whole of the post-vomerine parasphenoidal rostrum as seen from the palatal surface. It had a strong, thick, short tarso-metatarsus, shorter than the metatarsus as figured by M. Milne-Edwards in his 'Oiseaux Fossiles de France.' The beak was highly arched—as in *Aphanapteryx* and *Erythromachus*,—and was longer than the tarso-metatarsus.

Palæocorax moriorum.—This species of the Corvidæ, established on the wing- and limb-bones, had been originally placed in the genus *Corvus* (cf. 'Nature,' xlv. p. 252), as these bones presented no characters distinguishing them from those of the most typical Crow. The cranium, however, differed from that of every known species of that genus, so that Mr. Forbes had found it necessary to establish a new genus, *Palæocorax*, for its reception.

There were present minute rudiments of the basipterygoid processes on the parasphenoid. The vomer was broad, flat, three-pointed in front. The maxillaries were anchylosed to the premaxillaries; the latter were anchylosed to the expanded ossified base of the nasal septum. The ossified mesethmoid stretched backward and was lodged in the concavity of the

upper surface of the vomer, so that it presented a form intermediate between the complete ægithognathous Coracomorphæ, such as *Corvus*, and the compound ægithognathous forms, such as *Gymnorhina*, in which desmognathism was superadded by "anchylosis of the inner edge of the maxillaries with a highly ossified alinasal wall and nasal septum" (*Parker*).

No. V. (Jan. 26th, 1893.)

THE fourth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, R. STEPHENSON CLARKE, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, Col. L. HOWARD IRBY, H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, EVELYN RAWSON, W. L. SCLATER, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treas.*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE, H. SEEBOHM, J. YOUNG.

Guest: C. E. BAKER.

THE TREASURER reported that the number of Members amounted to 79.

A letter was read from Count SALVADORI commenting on some of the communications made to the last meeting of the Club, and expressing an opinion that *Cabalus modestus* of Hutton would be found to be distinct from *C. dieffenbachi*.

THE EDITOR expressed his regret that, by an oversight, the name of Count Salvadori had not been attached to the description of *Acredula macedonica* in the last number of the 'Bulletin.' He accepted the responsibility and apologized for this omission, which was caused by a misunderstanding on his part, and stated that the species should be called *Acredula macedonica* of Salvadori and Dresser.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS exhibited a mature male Scoter (*Edemia nigra*), shot by Mr. Chas. Fowler, of Chichester, in August 1891. Mr. Fowler stated that he had seen the two old birds, off and on, all the summer, without thinking of the probability of their breeding; but that early in August he had come upon them with a brood of seven nestlings just able to fly a short distance, and had shot the drake (see Zool. 1892, pp. 151, 228). On making inquiries he was told that the Scoter nested in Earnsley Marshes every year.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a prepared wing and tail of the Martineta Tinamou (*Calodromas elegans*), and pointed out that this form of the Tinamidae had 12 rectrices, although these feathers could not be discriminated from the adjacent coverts without careful examination.

There were 10 metacarpo-digitals and 15 cubitals in the wing. The fifth cubital remex was present and well developed, as in all the Tinami (see 'Ibis,' 1890, p. 82). There were 3 feathers on the pollex (*alula spuria*).

Mr. SCLATER read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Dr. G. Hartlaub, in which Dr. Hartlaub pointed out that Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was in error in suggesting (Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xx) that *Pennula ecaudata* (King) and *P. sandwichensis* (Gm.) were identical. Dr. Hartlaub had compared the Cambridge specimen of the former with the Leyden specimen of the latter, and had found them distinct. The notæum of *P. sandwichensis* was marked by great blackish spots, whereas in *P. ecaudata* the upper parts were of a uniform brown. It was possible that Latham's "Dusky Rail" might belong to *P. sandwichensis* and not to *P. ecaudata*.

A communication was read from the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD containing the description of a new species of *Hemignathus* from the island of Lanai in the Sandwich group. He proposed for it the name of

HEMIGNATHUS LANAIENSIS, sp. n.

H. similis H. obscuro, sed rostro valdè longiore et crassiore,

pileo cinerascente, notæo sordidiore olivascenti-viridi, pectore sordidè flavo, hypochondriis sordidè olivascentibus, et subcaudalibus albicantibus, distinguendus. Long. alæ 3·1–3·3 poll., culm. 2·9–3·1.

Hab. in insulâ Sandwichensi 'Lanai' dictâ.

Mr. Rothschild's communication contained the following remarks on this new bird:—

"This species belongs to the typical section of *Hemignathus*, which, in my opinion, includes two different species from the island of Kauai, one from Hawaii, and one from Oahu, in addition to the new species. They all have the upper and lower mandible of about the same length, while the aberrant *Heterorhynchus*-section, which now contains four species, has the upper mandible nearly twice the length of the lower.

"The *male* differs from the same sex of *H. obscurus* (its nearest ally) from Hawaii in its much longer and very stout bill, ashy-greyish tint of the crown, and much duller olivaceous green of the back, neck, and rump. Breast dirty yellow, gradually passing into dull olive on the flanks, instead of bright yellowish olive as in *H. obscurus*. Under tail-coverts creamy white, instead of olive-green.

"*Female*. Everywhere dull greyish olive, becoming more yellowish on the abdomen and under tail-coverts. Throat and cheeks dull greyish.

"*Young male*. Similar to the adult male, but all the colours strongly suffused with an ochraceous tinge.

"Iris dark brown; bill blackish brown, greyish at the base; feet and legs bright slaty blue, soles of the feet yellowish. Wing 3·1 to 3·3 inches, culmen 2·9 to 3·1 (much longer than that of *H. obscurus*)."

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited two males, a female, and a young male in first plumage of a new species of *Merula*, which he proposed to call

MERULA WHITEHEADI, sp. n.

Supra brunnea, capite canescente, abdomine castaneo, ventre medio albo, subcaudalibus albo striatis.

The specimens had been procured near Tozari in East Java, 7000 feet above sea-level, in August and September 1886, by Mr. John Whitehead.

Mr. Seebohm also made some critical remarks on a recent paper by Mr. Büttikofer on the same group of Thrushes (Notes Leyd. Mus. xv. p. 109), and exhibited the type specimen of *Merula papuensis* of De Vis, which had been lent to him by the describer for illustration in his forthcoming 'Monograph of the Turdidæ.'

Mr. SEEBOHM next exhibited and made remarks upon a specimen of a new species of *Zosterops* from East Java, procured by Mr. John Whitehead in 1886. This species he proposed to call

ZOSTEROPS NEGLECTA, sp. n.

Similis *Z. palpebroseæ*, sed magis olivaceus, et macula anteculari obscuriore distinguenda.

This made the sixth species of *Zosterops* found in the island of Java.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE read a paper on the Classification of the *Rallidæ*. He pointed out that the popular division of the family into Rails, Gallinules, and Coots was an untenable one, the Coots alone having definite characters for their separation as a subfamily, and that even these characters were approached by those of the Gallinules. It seemed, therefore, best to keep the whole of the Rails together as a family, and not to recognize minor divisions such as those specified. The gradual transition from typical Rails to Crakes (e. g. *Eulabeornis*—*Rallina*), and from Crakes to Gallinules (*Limnobæus* and *Amaurornis* to *Gallinula*), was so marked that it was impossible to say where the Rails ended and the Crakes began, or where the Crakes ended and the Gallinules began.

According to Dr. Sharpe's views, the Rails were an ancient group of birds, which were once more numerously distributed, especially in the southern hemisphere. Many of the surviving representatives of the family, from their isolation

and restricted habitats, had become modified in structure, and a much larger number of generic forms existed than had hitherto been supposed.

The following were the genera which Dr. Sharpe proposed to recognize:—1. *Rallus*, L.; 2. *Limnopardalus*, Cab.; 3. *Hypotenidia*, Reichenb.; 4. *Cabalus*, Hutton; 5. *Eulabeornis*, Gould; 6. *Tricholimnas*, gen. n.; 7. *Gymnocrex*, Salvad.; 8. *Aramides*, Pucher.; 9. *Megacrex*, Salvad.; 10. *Habroptila*, Gray; 11. *Ocydromus*, Wagl.; 12. *Aphanapteryx*, Frauenf.; 13. *Diaphorapteryx*, Forbes; 14. *Erythromachus*, Milne-Edwards; 15. *Himantornis*, Schl.; 16. *Dryolimnas*, gen. n.; 17. *Canirallus*, Hartl.; 18. *Rallina*, Reichenb.; 19. *Castanolimnas*, gen. n.; 20. *Crecopsis*, gen. n.; 21. *Crex*, Bechst.; 22. *Enolimnas*, gen. n.; 23. *Amaurolimnas*, gen. n.; 24. *Anurolimnas*, gen. n.; 25. *Zapornia*, Leach; 26. *Porzana*, Vicill.; 27. *Pennula*, Dole; 28. *Aphanolimnas*, Sharpe; 29. *Corethrura*, Reichenb.; 30. *Rallcula*, Schl.; 31. *Thyrorhina*, Sel. & Salv.; 32. *Ortygops*, Heine; 33. *Poliolimnas*, gen. n.; 34. *Porzanula*, Frohawk; 35. *Creciscus*, Cab.; 36. *Limnocorax*, Swains.; 37. *Limnobævus*, Sund.; 38. *Amauornis*, Reichenb.; 39. *Rougetius*, Bp.; 40. *Neocrex*, Sel. & Salv.; 41. *Tribonyx*, Du Bus; 42. *Microtribonyx*, gen. n.; 43. *Pareudiastes*, Hartl. & Finsch; 44. *Porphyriornis*, Allen; 45. *Gallinula*, Briss.; 46. *Porphyriops*, Pucher.; 47. *Gallicrex*, Blyth; 48. *Psammocrex*, Oust.; 49. *Ionornis*, Reichenb.; 50. *Porphyrio*, Briss.; 51. *Notornis*, Mantell; 52. *Fulica*, Briss.; 53. *Leguatia*, Schl. Besides these genera there were a few fossil forms, the exact position of which it was difficult to decide upon.

Dr. Sharpe stated that he had lately examined the type specimen of *Gallirallus brachypterus*, from the Caen Museum. For the loan of the specimen he was indebted to Professor Joyeux-Laffine, the Director of that Museum. Dr. Sharpe pointed out that the species had been the subject of much controversial opinion, but was evidently the same as *Gallirallus fuscus* of Du Bus, which must therefore be known as *Ocydromus brachypterus* (Lafr.). The species identified by Sir Walter Buller as *O. brachypterus*, and

figured as such in his 'Birds of New Zealand,' had in consequence been wrongly determined.

The following were the characters of the new genera proposed by Dr. Sharpe:—

TRICHOLIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Eulabeornis*" dicto, sed tectricibus alarum maximè elongatis, remiges ipsos celantibus, distinguendum.

Typus *T. lafresnayanus* (Verr.).

— DRYOLIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Canirallus*" dicto et culmine longiore quam digitus internus cum ungue, sed naribus longitudinalibus angustissimis, aperturâ nasali vix evidente, distinguendum.

Typus *D. cuvieri* (Pucher.).

CASTANOLIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Rallina*" dicto, sed secundariis primariisque æqualibus, et tectricibus alarum elongatis, remigibus albo fasciatis, et rectricibus mollibus decompositis, distinguendum.

Typus *C. canningi* (Blyth).

CRECOPSIS, gen. n. Simile præcedenti, sed dorso variegato, remigibus concoloribus, et remigibus rectricibusque normalibus distinguendum.

Typus *C. egregia* (Peters).

ŒNOLIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Crex*" dicto, sed ptilosi concolori haud variegatâ, et rectricibus latissimis, ad apicem decompositis distinguendum.

Typus *Œ. isabellinus* (Schl.).

— AMAUROLIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Crex*" dicto, sed rostro longiore, culmine digito interno æquali, distinguendum.

Typus *A. concolor* (Gosse).

— ANUROLIMNAS, gen. n., digito medio cum ungue longiore quam culmen, rectricibus haud evidentibus, mollibus, decompositis, a tectricibus caudalibus celatis, distinguendum.

Typus *A. castaneiceps* (Sch. & Salv.).

POLIO LIMNAS, gen. n. Simile generi "*Porzana*" dicto, sed secundariis primariisque æqualibus, alis pedibusque fortibus, illis tarso et digitis æquantibus, distinguendum.

Typus *P. cinereus* (V.).

MICROTRIBONYX, gen. n. Simile generi "*Tribonyx*" dicto, sed alis robustis, primariis quam cubitales longioribus, distinguendum.

Typus *M. ventralis* (Gould).

By permission of the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Dr. SHARPE was enabled to lay on the table some specimens of *Ocydromi* belonging to the Rothschild Museum. These were from the Buller collection, and were supposed to illustrate the species of *Ocydromus* recognized by Sir Walter Buller in his second edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand'; but Dr. Sharpe found it very difficult to follow the author in his conclusions, and infinitely preferred the more simple view as to the number of species which had been adopted in the *first* edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand.'

In the second edition Sir Walter Buller, after discussing at some length the number of species, which had been debated between Professor Hutton and himself, had come to the conclusion that five should be recognized, viz.:—*O. greyi*, sp. nov.; *O. fuscus* (Du Bus); *O. earli*, Gray; *O. australis* (Sparrman); and *O. brachypterus* (Lafr.). The plates in Sir Walter Buller's work did not help much towards the identification of the species; for although in nearly every case the actual specimens figured were now in the Rothschild collection, it was almost impossible to recognize them in the chromo-lithographic plates themselves. The question was further complicated by the misleading way in which the species were arranged in the book referred to. Thus, between *O. greyi* and *O. earli* (the latter not being even figured) was interposed *O. fuscus*, the most distinct of all the Weka Rails; so that the idea was conveyed that *O. greyi* of Buller and *O. earli* of Gray were widely different species, whereas Dr. Sharpe stated that, in his opinion, they were not distinguishable. Sir Walter Buller wished to restrict the true *O. earli* to the South Island, because it seemed to be identical with some specimens procured by Mr. Reischek in the latter island. As a matter of fact, however, the type-specimen of *O. earli* was a young bird; and even if there were two species

inhabiting the North and South Islands respectively, Dr. Sharpe maintained that it would be perfectly impossible to say to which of these species the young birds belonged. After comparing two of Mr. Reischek's South-Island specimens in the Rothschild collection, supposed by Sir Walter Buller to be the true *O. earli*, with the series of so-called *O. greyi* from the North Island, Dr. Sharpe admitted his inability to separate them even as races. With regard to *O. australis* the question of races was much more difficult, and at first sight it would appear that two well-defined forms could be distinguished—one a sandy-tinted bird, and the other a cinnamon-tinted one. Between these two, however, there appeared to be every possible link and gradation of colour; so that it was impossible to define any races or subspecies. Sir Walter Buller, in his second edition, had indeed hinted that altitude and locality had something to do with the variations in plumage; but the want of labels and definite localities in the specimens of the Buller collection prevented Dr. Sharpe from drawing any satisfactory conclusion.

While speaking of the genus *Ocydromus*, Dr. Sharpe remarked that the so-called *Ocydromus sylvestris*, Selater, from Lord Howe Island, was not an *Ocydromus* in his opinion, but a *Cabalus*, congeneric with *Cabalus dieffenbachi* from the Chatham Islands, and should therefore be called *Cabalus sylvestris*.

Mr. SEEBOHM made remarks on the Geographical Distribution of British Birds, recognizing 401 species and 13 subspecies as having more or less claim to be admitted to the list.

No. VI. (March 1st, 1893.)

THE fifth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of February, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, H. E. DRESSER, H. O. FORBES, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, Col. L. HOWARD IRBY, Dr. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., E. NEALE, H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, Capt. SAVILE REID, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treas.*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE, HENRY SEEBOHM, J. T. TRISTRAM-VALENTINE.

Guests: C. FLETCHER, ERNST HARTERT, CHARLES HOSE.

Mr. H. E. DRESSER exhibited on behalf of Mr. JOHN WHITEHEAD a specimen of a *Cryptolopha* from the island of Palawan, which Dr. Sharpe had identified as *Cryptolopha montis* (cf. 'Ibis,' 1888, p. 199). Mr. Whitehead, however, had proposed to separate it from the Kina-Balu species, on account of its yellow rump, and to call it

CRYPTOLOPHA XANTHOPYGIA, sp. n.

Similis *C. montis*, sed rostro crassiore et uropygio sulphureo distinguenda.

Hab. in montibus insulæ Palawanensis.

Mr. SEEBOHM exhibited an egg supposed to be that of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*) taken near Disco in Greenland.

A communication was read from Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., on two new species of birds from Nicaragua, as follows:—

"In a collection of birds recently sent by Mr. W. B. Richardson from Nicaragua, several interesting species are represented which, so far as I know, have not hitherto been noticed in Nicaragua. Thus we find *Thryophilus costaricensis*, the Costa-Rican form of *T. castaneus*, as well as *T. thoracicus* and *Thryothorus atrigularis*, both of which, however, have been noticed at Greytown. Skins of a *Cyphorhinus* from Santo Domingo, in Chontales, differ from *C. lawrencii* and may be described as

+ "*CYPHORHINUS RICHARDSONI*, sp. n.

"♂ *C. lawrencii* affinis, sed supra pallidior, et loris, sicut gula, distincte castaneis, necnon tectricibus alarum minoribus vix transfasciatis, distinguendus.

"Mr. Richardson also sends a specimen of *Piprites griseiceps* from San Carlos, which is only the second we have seen; and, along with several interesting Formicariidæ, an example of a new *Rhopoterpe*, a genus not yet included in the Central-American fauna. This we propose to call

+ "RHOPOTERPE STICTOPTERA, sp. n.

"♂ *R. torquata* affinis et ejusdem stature, necnon coloribus plerumque similis; sed capite summo obscuriore, uropygio et cauda fusciscentioribus, remigibus in pogonio externo ad apicem cervino distincte notatis, maculis celatis in pogonio interno cervinis (nec albis), et tectricibus majoribus late cervino terminatis distinguendus.

"*Hab.* Nicaragua; Santo Domingo.

"We also find in Mr. Richardson's collection a single specimen of *Conurus finschi*, originally described from Panama specimens; and a pair, taken at Leon, of the pretty little *Gampsonyx swainsoni*, a well-known bird in South America, but quite new to the Central-American fauna."

A second communication from Mr. SALVIN related to a new species of Petrel.

In the collection of birds made by Mr. Hawkins on the Chatham Islands were two specimens of an *Æstrelata* belonging to a species allied to *Æ. cooki*, but which differed in several marked characters. The skins were not quite adult, but were marked male and female; the birds had been shot on the south-east island on the 8th of May, 1892. Mr. Salvin proposed to describe the species as follows:—

+ *ÆSTRELATA AXILLARIS*, sp. n.

Æ. cooki affinis, sed minor; rostro brevior et magis robusto; supra pallidior, tectricibus alarum mediis cinerascens, albis limbatis, rectricibus lateralibus magis cinereis; axillaribus et tectricibus subalaribus secundariis nigris; rostro nigro, pedibus carneis, digitis et palamisque nigris ad basin carneis. Long. tota circa 12·0 poll., alæ 8·3, caudæ rectr. med. 3·8, rectr. lat. 3·2, rostri a rictu 1·3, tarsi 1·2, dig. med. cum ungue 1·5.

Hab. Chatham Islands.

Mr. E. HARTERT exhibited the type-specimens of *Hemignathus lanaiensis*, Rothschild, from Lanai, described at the last Meeting of the Club, as well as examples of its nearest allies.

Mr. HARTERT also exhibited the skin of a Goose, supposed by him to be a hybrid between *Bernicla brenta* and *Anser albifrons*.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM gave a short explanation of a theory propounded by Dr. Nicholski, of St. Petersburg, to account for the variations in the shape of birds' eggs.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT made some remarks on the classification of the Game-Birds and on the changes of the plumage in the *Tetraonidæ*.

Mr. SCLATER drew attention to the protected district round Aden as being very convenient for an ornithological excursion, and a place where it was evident, from Lieut. Barnes's recent article in 'The Ibis,' that much more good work remained to be done.

XXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 150.]

48. *Büttikofer on the Species of Rhipidura.*

[A Review of the Genus *Rhipidura*, with an Enumeration of the Specimens in the Leyden Museum. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xv. p. 65.]

Mr. Büttikofer gives a complete list, with diagnoses, of the species of this numerous Oriental genus of Muscicapidæ, and excellent critical notes on those of which he has examined specimens. He includes *Leucocerca*, *Neomyias*, and *Sauloprocta* in the genus *Rhipidura*, and recognizes 78 species, of which 5 are now described as new, namely, *R. celebensis* and *R. teysmanni*, from Celebes; *R. sumbavensis*, from Sumbava; *R. rosenbergi*, from Aru; and *R. hoedti*, from Lettie, Timor group.